

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Brook Lodge Hotel and Conference Resort
6535 North 42nd Street
Augusta, Michigan**

**January 10, 2002
9:30 a.m.**

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President
Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., Secretary
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. John C. Austin
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer
Mrs. Sharon Wise
Mr. Scott Jenkins, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of December 13, 2001
- B Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 Off-Road Vehicle Rider and Safety Education Programs

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated January 10, 2002, from Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board regarding Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T

IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Continued Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers - added to agenda

- B. Report of the Superintendent - Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs - added to agenda
- C. Report of the Superintendent - Report on Property Transfers - added to agenda
- D. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 Off-Road Vehicle Rider and Safety Education Program - added to agenda
- E. Approval of Eligibility Criteria for Title I School Improvement Funds - removed from consent agenda and placed under discussion items

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, pointed out that there was no consent agenda for this meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. INTRODUCTIONS OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting.

VI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

There was consensus to postpone approval of minutes until later in the meeting to allow staff time to incorporate suggested changes.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. H.R.1, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Watkins and Mr. Warren traveled to Washington, D.C. on January 9, 2002, to attend a rally hosted by President Bush on H.R.1, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. She said further information regarding H.R.1, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 will be provided later in the meeting by Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director, Office of Administrative Law.

B. State Board of Education Task Forces

Mrs. Straus said she has spoken with Board members regarding Task Force presentations. She said Mrs. McGuire, Chair, Elevating Educational Leadership Task Force, and Mr. Austin and Mrs. Weiser, Co-Chairs,

Ensuring Excellent Educators Task Force, have indicated that they intend to present at the March 14, 2002, Board meeting. She said she hopes that Mrs. Gire and Dr. Moyer, Co-Chairs, Integrating Communities and Schools Task Force, and Mrs. Wise, Chair, Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy Task Force, will present at the April 11, 2002, meeting. She said it may not be possible to act on all the suggested recommendations immediately, but felt it could be completed by the June meeting.

Board members expressed concern that by adopting the recommendations made by the five Task Forces the Board may be placing too many demands on Department staff. It was suggested the Board think outside the Department of Education and draw on the resources of other state departments, intermediate school districts, colleges and universities.

VIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING SCHOOL FINANCE STUDY WITH NEIL THEOBALD, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES, INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Mr. Watkins introduced Dr. Neil Theobald, Chair, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Indiana University. Mr. Watkins said Dr. Theobald has been charged with researching the financial requirements of public education in Michigan for an Advisory Group comprised of the Citizens Research Council, the PUBLIC policy institutes at the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University, and North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL). He said the Advisory Group will formulate a report to be presented to the Board, and other policy makers including the Legislature, and the Governor.

Dr. Theobald said there is not anything as large or as important as school finance. He said in order to be cost effective and efficient in designing a school finance system, it is critical that resources are applied to the goals that are most important. He said Proposal A addressed the following three issues in 1994: (1) narrowing the gap between the very high and very low spending school districts; (2) property taxes at that time in Michigan were extremely high and there was an interest in lowering them; and (3) concerns that school districts repeatedly request millage votes, either a renewal or an increase.

Dr. Theobald said his goal is not to develop school finance nor tax solutions, but to listen and report back to the Advisory Group which will identify a number of ways the state can address those issues. He said that he would be addressing the financial requirements of the public school system.

During his presentation Dr. Theobald discussed the following: (1) the projected time line for this project; (2) capital construction; (3) operating and capital spending; (4) the achievement gap and having every child meet minimum standards; (5) the need to focus resources on instruction; and (6) declining enrollment.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the pluses and minuses of Proposal A and the flexibility available to school districts; (2) the impact of the current recession on revenue and the resulting changes to property and sales taxes; (3) the dollar amount needed to successfully educate a child; and (4) targeting funds, output based analysis and whether or not the achievement gap is more prevalent in districts that receive more funding or less funding overall.

This was a report only and required no action.

IX. FEDERAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2002

Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director, Office of Administrative Law and Federal Relations, provided a very informative explanation of the education legislation just passed by Congress and signed by the President. She then responded to questions from members of the Board regarding the following, as listed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 7, 2002:

- Congress Completes H.R.1, No Child Left Behind Bill
- Adequate Yearly Progress
Reading
- Teacher Quality
Flexibility
- Education Receives Largest Funding Increase in History
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Reauthorization Next on
Congressional Agenda

There was extensive discussion regarding H.R.1, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 rally which Mr. Watkins and Mr. Warren attended, and Ms. Stanley's views of the effect it will have on Michigan education and Title I programs.

This was a report only and required no action.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 1:40 a.m. with Mrs. Gire assuming the chair in Mr. Watkins' absence.

XI. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TASK FORCE ON EMBRACING THE INFORMATION AGE

Mr. Warren said he has determined through several conversations with Board members that the Board is not yet ready to move on the remaining recommendations of the Embracing the Information Age Task Force. He said he had hoped that the

memorandum dated December 28, 2001, regarding "Task Force Report Regarding Embracing the Information Age," from Mr. Warren to the Board would have answered many of the Board member's questions, however, that does not seem to be the case.

Discussion was held regarding: (1) ensuring that the recommendations of the Embracing the Information Age Task Force are in line with the technology components of the federal legislation discussed by Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director, Office of Federal Relations, earlier in the meeting; and (2) coordinating recommendations on professional development and training between the Embracing the Information Age and Ensuring Teacher Excellence Task Forces. It was suggested that the two Task Forces present the joint recommendation at either the February or March Board meetings for consideration.

This was a report only and required no action.

XII. APPROVAL OF STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE TEACHERS; AND APPROVAL OF STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ECONOMICS TEACHERS

Dr. Carolyn Logan, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services, and Dr. Catherine Smith, Supervisor, Office of Professional Preparation Services, provided information and responded to questions from members of the Board regarding the standards for the preparation of political science and economics teachers.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the need for professional development for general education teachers teaching mainstreamed special education students; (2) human growth and development and how it relates to teacher preparation; and (3) the concept that all children learn and grow at the same rate and the expectation that they will all be able to read and compute at grade level by the third or fourth grade.

Mr. Warren requested that when teacher preparation standards are presented to the Board for approval, staff either provide a summary or identify the appropriate area of the Model Content Standards. He said he thinks that will help the Board make informed decisions regarding teacher preparation standards and ensure that they are up-to-date with the Model Content Standards. Staff agreed to provide such an analysis in the future.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education approve (1) the standards for the preparation of political science teachers, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 2, 2002; and (2) the standards for the preparation of economics teachers, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 2, 2002.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Watkins resumed the chair from Mrs. Gire.

XIII. APPROVAL OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TITLE I SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

Ms. Dorothy VanLooy, Director, Office of Field Services, provided information and responded to questions from the Board regarding the eligibility criteria for Title I School Improvement Funds. She said Title I has been made available to individual states as official funding to assist those schools and intermediate school districts that have been identified for funding approval. She said criteria approval was first requested of the Board in March 2000, and assistance was provided to schools which had fewer than 25% of students in the highest achieving category in three subject areas and failed to make adequate yearly progress.

Ms. VanLooy said the program has been renewed, and funding increased at the federal level. She said the criteria presented to the Board for approval expands the base for schools qualified for assistance to include schools that have fewer than 25% of students in the highest category in two subject areas and fail to show adequate yearly progress. She said schools must apply through the proper application process and provide a plan that identifies current needs.

There was extensive discussion regarding the appropriate way to encourage schools to consider the Board's five strategies in their improvement plans.

Mr. Warren moved that the State Board of Education approve the eligibility criteria for the fiscal year 2001 Title I School Improvement funds as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 2, 2002. There was no support for the motion.

The Board discussed the need for an umbrella statement or preamble regarding grant criteria, and Mrs. Straus and Mr. Warren agreed to work on such language in time for the next meeting.

Mr. Warren withdrew his motion after other Board members expressed the desire to continue discussion.

Discussion continued regarding: (1) whether the school district in which a particular school belongs should be required to provide matching resources or if there could be some stipulation that no depletion of resources from the district would take place when and if Title I funds were received; and (2) if it was appropriate to request schools to consider the five strategies when submitting their improvement plans.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the eligibility criteria for the fiscal year 2001 Title I School Improvement funds, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 2, 2002.

In response to the Board discussion, Ms. VanLooy indicated that as part of the communication announcing eligibility, school districts will be requested to submit to the Department a plan to raise achievement in their school, giving priority consideration to the five Board strategies.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO URGE THE CONTINUED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED AND SCHOOL-LINKED HEALTH CENTERS

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Dr. Moyer, that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 8, 2002, urging the continued funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the "Policies on Creating an Effective Learning Environment" adopted by the Board on December 14, 2000; (2) whether funding is actually available to support School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers; and (3) if the Board should encourage schools to explore alternative sources of funding for health centers.

Mrs. Gire said there has been a bipartisan effort in the Legislature to find funding sources for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers, and she feels the Board should support that activity.

Mr. Watkins suggested that Mrs. Gire, Mrs. Weiser, and key staff review the resolution, and in light of the discussion, suggest an alternative resolution for Board consideration.

APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 13, 2001

Mrs. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2001, as modified.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 1:00 p.m., and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO URGE THE CONTINUED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED AND SCHOOL-LINKED HEALTH CENTERS (continued)

Mr. Watkins suggested that the Board revisit the motion made earlier in the meeting regarding the Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Continued Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers.

Mrs. Straus withdrew her earlier motion, Dr. Moyer his support.

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, read the suggested modifications to the resolution including changing the title and the three "resolves."

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mr. Weiser, that the State Board of Education adopt the revised resolution titled, "Resolution Supporting School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers," as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

The resolution is attached as Exhibit A.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There was no one present who wished to offer comments under the public participation portion of the meeting.

XIX. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no awards and/or recognitions presented.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

G. Human Resources Report

H. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers

Report on Approval of Oakland University's Teacher Education Programs

J. Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs

K. Report on Property Transfers

M. 2001-2002 Off-Road Vehicle Rider and Safety Education Program

COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. State Board of Education Brochure - Mrs. Kathleen Straus

Mrs. Straus said Department staff have designed a new Board brochure which is available for distribution. She encouraged Board members to take a supply to hand out at functions they attend.

B. Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 30, 2002

Mrs. Straus suggested that the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 30, 2002, be canceled, and that the topic for discussion initially slated for that meeting be inserted into the February agenda.

There was consensus to cancel the January 30, 2002, Committee of the Whole meeting.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. February 14, 2002
- B. March 14, 2002
- C. April 11, 2002
- D. May 9, 2002

XXIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Warren requested that information on school safety training of teachers based on the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) data be provided at a future Board meeting.

Mrs. Gire asked that the Board allow time for members of the Michigan Educational Alliance who attended the Priority School Conference to present information at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.
Secretary